



US Department of Labor Mine Safety and Health Administration

Mine Injuries Drop As MSHA Steps Up Site Enforcement Events, Compliance Assistance

The Mine Safety and Health Administration has jurisdiction over 1,967 coal mines and 12,395 metal and nonmetal mines nationwide. The Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 requires MSHA to inspect each underground mine at least four times and each surface mine at least twice annually. From CY 2000 to CY 2003, MSHA enforcement program site events per mine increased by 6 percent. At the same time compliance assistance has become an integral part of every mine visit. From reviewing a mine's compliance and safety performance prior to an inspection to conducting outreach programs to discuss trends and provide training, MSHA is using all available resources to achieve a vision shared throughout the mining community: to send every miner home at the end of each work day in a safe and healthy condition.

All Mining	CY 2000	CY 2001	CY 2002	CY 2003	Percent change, CY 2000-2003
Enforcement program site events per mine	4.2	5.0	6.1	4.5*	+6%
Mining fatalities	85	72	69	56	-34%
Total mining injuries	16,029	14,748	13,413	11,989*	-25%
Number of miners	348,548	347,228	329,114	319,983*	-8%

*4th Quarter, preliminary

The U.S. mining industry has reduced fatalities and injuries markedly. Fatalities have declined 34 percent between CY 2000 and CY 2003. Total mining injuries declined by 25 percent in the same period. More miners went home to their families in a safe and healthy condition at the end of each working day.

The Triangle of Success

Influencing this success is MSHA's use of all the tools provided in the 1977 Act to help create a culture of prevention throughout the mining industry. These tools -- enforcement, education and



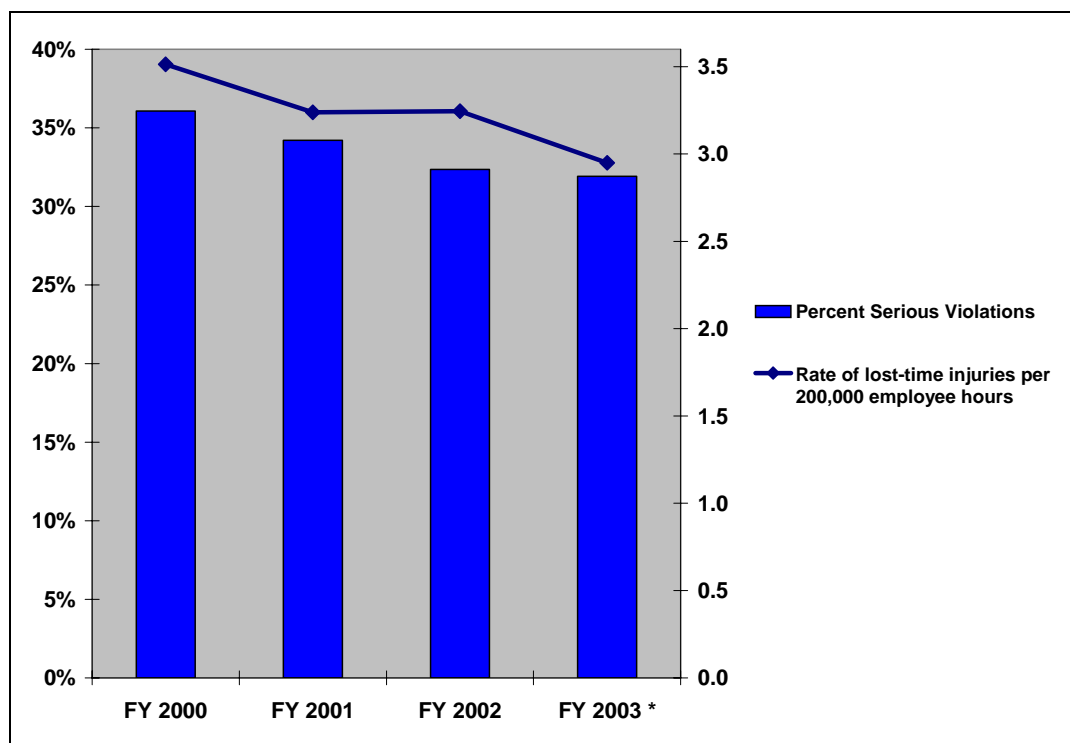
training, and technical assistance -- are known as the MSHA "Triangle of Success." New avenues for training, the exploration of innovative technologies, and unprecedented Alliance Agreements are creating a network of effective partnerships. Among its new initiatives in CY 2001-2003, MSHA's new Small Mines Office has so far visited the operators of more than 2,300 mines employing five or fewer miners to offer compliance assistance.

Rates of mining injuries substantiate safety progress

Rates of injury are recognized as the most reliable index of safety progress. The mining industry achieved substantial reductions in injury rates across the board from CY 2000 to CY 2003.

All Mining	CY 2000	CY 2001	CY 2002	CY 2003	Percent change, CY 2000-2003
Incident rates per 200,000 employee-hours					
Lost-time injuries	3.51	3.24	3.25	2.95*	-16%
All injuries	5.13	4.75	4.60	4.22*	-18%

It is important to note that serious violation rates have dropped in parallel with the serious (lost time) injury rates – a sign of true success in reducing hazards that cause both violations and accidents that result in injury.



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